

SENATE BILL No. 418

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-12-21.7.

Synopsis: Advanced degree nursing scholarships. Allows a nurse who pursues a master's or doctorate degree in nursing that would enable the nurse to teach nursing at an eligible institution of higher learning to be eligible for a scholarship from the minority teacher, special education services, and nursing scholarship and loan assistance fund. Provides for loan repayment of student loans incurred by a nurses who teaches nursing at an eligible institution of higher learning.

Effective: July 1, 2007.

Simpson

January 16, 2007, read first time and referred to Committee on Tax and Fiscal Policy.

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First Regular Session 115th General Assembly (2007)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2006 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

SENATE BILL No. 418

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-12-21.7-2 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
2 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 2. As used in this
3 chapter, "eligible institution of higher learning" means a public or
4 private college or university that offers a student the opportunity to
5 acquire:

6 (A) at least a baccalaureate degree in the field of education; **or**
7 (B) a master's or doctorate degree in nursing.

8 SECTION 2. IC 20-12-21.7-3 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
9 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 3. As used in this
10 chapter, "fund" refers to the minority teacher, ~~or~~ special education
11 services, **and nursing** scholarship **and loan assistance** fund
12 established under section 5 of this chapter.

13 SECTION 3. IC 20-12-21.7-4.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
14 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
15 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: **Sec. 4.5. As used in this chapter,**
16 **"nurse" refers to an individual who is licensed under IC 25-23.**

17 SECTION 4. IC 20-12-21.7-5 IS AMENDED TO READ AS



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FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 5. The minority teacher, ~~or~~ special education services, **and nursing scholarship and loan assistance** fund is established:

(1) as the fund pertains to minority teachers:

(A) to encourage and promote qualified minority individuals to pursue a career in teaching in accredited schools in Indiana;

(B) to enhance the number of individuals who may serve as role models for the minority students in Indiana; and

(C) in recognition of the fact that there is a shortage of minority teachers teaching in accredited schools of Indiana; ~~and~~

(2) as the fund pertains to special education services:

(A) to encourage and promote qualified individuals to pursue a career in:

(i) teaching special education in accredited schools in Indiana; or

(ii) practicing occupational or physical therapy in accredited schools in Indiana, in vocational rehabilitation centers under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1), or in community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities centers under IC 12-29 (except IC 12-29-3-6) as part of the special education program; and

(B) in recognition of the fact that there is a shortage of individuals who teach special education and who provide certain other special education services in accredited schools in Indiana; **and**

(3) as the fund pertains to nurses:

(A) to encourage and promote qualified nurses to pursue a career teaching nurses at eligible institutions of higher learning in Indiana; and

(B) in recognition of the fact that there is a shortage of individuals who have the education qualifications to teach nursing at eligible institutions of higher learning in Indiana.

SECTION 5. IC 20-12-21.7-7 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 7. (a) Except as provided in subsection (c) **and section 10.5 of this chapter**, the money in the fund shall be used to provide annual scholarships to ~~minority~~ students who qualify under section 9(a), **9.1(a), or 9.3(a)** of this chapter or individuals who qualify under section 9.1(a), **9.1(a), or 9.3(a)** of this chapter in an amount that is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:

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(1) The balance of the student's total cost in attending the eligible institution for the academic year.

(2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000).

(b) Subject to section 8(c) of this chapter, each scholarship awarded under subsection (a) or subsection (c) is renewable under section 9(b), ~~of this chapter or under section 9.1(b), or 9.3(b)~~ of this chapter, whichever applies, for a total scholarship award that does not exceed eight (8) semesters (or its equivalent).

(c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), if a minority student qualifies under section 9(a) of this chapter and demonstrates to the commission financial need in an amount greater than described in subsection (a), the annual scholarship that the minority student may receive is equal to the lesser of the following amounts:

(1) The balance of the student's total cost in attending the eligible institution for the academic year.

(2) Four thousand dollars (\$4,000).

SECTION 6. IC 20-12-21.7-8 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 8. (a) The commission for higher education under IC 20-12-0.5 shall provide the commission with the most recent information concerning:

(1) the number of minority students enrolled at each eligible institution; and

(2) the number of individuals who are:

(A) enrolled at each eligible institution; ~~and~~

(B) pursuing a course of study that would enable the student, upon graduation, to be:

(i) licensed to teach special education in an accredited school; or

(ii) certified to practice occupational therapy or licensed to practice physical therapy in an accredited school, in a vocational rehabilitation center under IC 12-12-1-4.1(a)(1), or in a community mental retardation or other developmental disabilities center under IC 12-29 as part of the special education program; **and**

(3) the number of nurses who are pursuing a course of study that, upon graduation, would enable the student to teach nursing at an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school.

(b) **Subject to section 10.5 of this chapter**, the commission shall allocate the available money from the fund to each eligible institution in proportion to the number of ~~minority~~ students enrolled at each eligible institution as described in subsection (a) based upon the

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information received by the commission under subsection (a).

(c) Each eligible institution shall determine the scholarship recipients under this chapter:

(1) based upon the criteria set forth in section 9, ~~of this chapter or section 9.1, or 9.3~~ of this chapter, whichever applies, and the rules adopted by the commission under section 12 of this chapter; and

(2) with a priority on granting scholarships in the following order:

(A) Minority students seeking a renewal scholarship.

(B) Newly enrolling minority students.

(C) Special education services students seeking a renewal scholarship.

(D) Newly enrolling special education services students.

(E) Nursing students seeking a renewal scholarship.

(F) Newly enrolling nursing students.

However, the eligible institution may not grant a scholarship renewal to a student for an academic year that ends later than six (6) years after the date the student received the initial scholarship under this chapter.

(d) Any funds that:

(1) are allocated to an eligible institution; and

(2) are not utilized for scholarships under this chapter;

shall be returned to the commission for reallocation by the commission to any other eligible institution in need of additional funds.

SECTION 7. IC 20-12-21.7-9.3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: **Sec. 9.3. (a) To initially qualify for a scholarship from the fund as the fund pertains to individuals described in section 8(a)(3) of this chapter, an individual must:**

(1) be admitted to an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student or be attending an eligible institution of higher learning as a full-time student;

(2) intend to pursue or, in the case of a student who is attending an eligible institution of higher learning, pursue a course of study that would enable the student, upon graduation, to teach nursing at an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school in Indiana;

(3) agree, in writing, to teach nursing in an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school in Indiana for the three (3) years after the student graduates with a master's or doctorate degree in nursing; and

(4) meet any other minimum criteria established by the commission.

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(b) To qualify for a scholarship renewal from the fund under this section, the individual must:

- (1) comply with the criteria set forth in subsection (a); and
- (2) maintain at least the cumulative grade point average:
 - (A) that is required by an eligible institution of higher learning for admission to the eligible institution's graduate school in which the individual is enrolled; or
 - (B) of 2.0 on a 4.0 grading scale or its equivalent as established by the eligible institution of higher learning if the eligible institution's graduate school in which the individual is enrolled does not require a minimum cumulative grade point average.

SECTION 8. IC 20-12-21.7-10.5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 10.5. (a) The fund shall be administered to provide loan repayment for student loans incurred by nurses who teach nursing at an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school in Indiana.

(b) To be eligible for loan repayment for a student loan, an individual must meet all the following conditions:

- (1) Hold a license to practice as a nurse in Indiana.
- (2) Teach nursing in an eligible institution of higher learning or vocational school in Indiana.
- (3) Incur the loan to be repaid while pursuing a master's or doctorate degree in nursing.

(c) A nurse who wishes to receive loan repayment for a student loan must apply for a loan repayment on an application form supplied by the commission.

(d) The commission shall award an annual loan repayment in an amount not greater than the following:

- (1) The documented amount of the student loans incurred by the nurse.
- (2) One thousand dollars (\$1,000).

SECTION 9. IC 20-12-21.7-11 IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 11. (a) The commission shall maintain complete and accurate records in implementing the program, including the following:

- (1) Scholarships awarded under this chapter.
- (2) The number of individuals who fulfilled the agreement described under section 9.1(a)(3) or 9.3(a)(3) of this chapter.
- (3) The number of individuals who did not fulfill the agreement described under section 9.1(a)(3) or 9.3(a)(3) of this chapter.

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1 **(4) The annual loan repayments made under section 10.5 of**
 2 **this chapter.**

3 (b) Each eligible institution shall provide the commission with
 4 information concerning the following:

5 (1) The awarding of scholarships under this chapter.

6 (2) The academic progress made by each recipient of a
 7 scholarship under this chapter.

8 (3) Other pertinent information requested by the commission.

9 SECTION 10. IC 20-12-21.7-12 IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 10 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2007]: Sec. 12. The commission
 11 shall adopt rules under IC 4-22-2 to implement this chapter, including
 12 rules governing the enforcement of the agreements under section
 13 **9(a)(3), 9.1(a)(3), or 9.3(a)(3)** of this chapter.

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